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NSC BRIEFING

FAR EASTERN DEVELOPMENTS

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25X1

Indonesia

- I. Contest between army and civilian elements for political control of country seems entering critical stage.

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A. Army Chief Nasution has ambitious plans for greater policy role in government, wishes increased number officers assigned to key executive, legislative, diplomatic posts.

II. Recent (5 December) meeting between Sukarno and cabinet apparently failed to satisfy army's hopes.

25X1 A. [ ] participants decided against at least one of Nasution's plans--appointive legislative seats.

III. Nasution is in fact likely to face increasingly stiff opposition from diverse sources.

A. Communists, other political parties, and Air Force and Navy chiefs all opposing him in various ways.

IV. Biggest question mark, as usual, is President Sukarno.

A. Distinct danger that Sukarno may eventually see in Nasution's increasing stature a threat to his own pre-eminence, and either remove or curb him.

#### Thailand-Cambodia

I. Verbal war between Thailand and Cambodia, following diplomatic break late November, has again reached high pitch.

A. Break in relations, initiated by Cambodia over critical Thai press articles, [ ]

25X6 B. Thailand now insisting on full reinstatement of ambassadors and return of some 80 kidnapped Thai nationals.

II. Marshal Sarit of Thailand apparently finding dispute convenient issue to unify his followers.

**A. Cambodia's action came at time Sarit was under threat of rising factionalism among politically ambitious followers.**

**III. Thailand's belligerent attitude, which includes strengthening of patrols on closed border, raises danger of shooting incidents.**

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